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23. (New) An audio rack according to claim 12, wherein each of the first and second storage spaces includes a pair of guides disposed on an inner surface of the first and second storage spaces for guiding the first and second electrical equipments into the first and second storage spaces, respectively, so as to position the first and second electrical equipments in desired positions within the audio rack.

REMARKS

With this Amendment, Applicants submits corrected formal drawings (Figs. 1-8). It is respectfully requested that these drawings replace the previously submitted formal drawings and be made of official record in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 2-4, 6-9, and 11-23 are pending in this application, with claims 2, 11, and 12 being independent claims. Claims 2-4 and 6-9 have been allowed. Claims 11, 12, and 22 have been amended to more clearly recite features of the present invention. Claim 23 has been newly added. No new matter has been added.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 12-21. As suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have rewritten claim 12 in independent form to include all of the limitations of base claim 11, and amended claim 22 to depend from claim 12, in order to place claims 12-20 and 22-23 in condition for allowance. Thus, timely allowance of claims 12-20 and 22-23 is respectfully requested.

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In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ponticelli (U.S. Patent No. 4,742,978). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The rejection of claim 22 is obviated by amendment to depend from allowed claim 12. Independent claim 11, as amended, recites a combination of structural elements that is patentable over the disclosure of Ponticelli. In particular, Ponticelli does not disclose, among other things, "each of the first width and the second width being uniform along the depth of the respective storage space."

Ponticelli discloses a mounting kit suitable for installing a variety of different model radios in different vehicles. The kit includes a rectangular frame (15) having opposing top and bottom walls (16, 17) and opposing side walls (18, 19), and a front panel (23) for use with a particular radio installation. The Examiner appears to construe that the two openings formed in the front panel (23) correspond to the "first storage space" and "second storage space," as recited in independent claim 11. Ponticelli, however, still does not disclose the "each of the first width and the second width being uniform along the depth of the respective storage space," as is clear from Fig. 1 of Ponticelli.

At least for this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that Ponticelli fails to anticipate independent claim 11. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the present application, and the timely allowance of all pending claims.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to claims 11, 12, and 22 by this Amendment.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

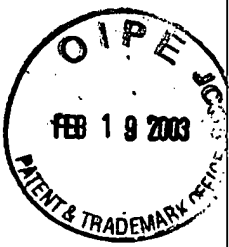
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Dated: February 19, 2003

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APPENDIX TO AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

11. (Amended) An audio rack of a vehicle configured to receive a plurality of electrical equipments, comprising:

a first storage space of the audio rack having a first width and configured to receive a first electrical equipment having a width slightly less than the first width; [and]

a second storage space of the audio rack having a second width smaller than the first width and configured to receive a second electrical equipment having a width slightly less than the second width[.]; and

each of the first width and the second width being uniform along the depth of the respective storage space,

wherein one of the first and second storage spaces is disposed on the top of the other.

12. (Amended) An audio rack [according to claim 11, further comprising] of a vehicle configured to receive a plurality of electrical equipments, comprising:

a first storage space of the audio rack having a first width and configured to receive a first electrical equipment having a width slightly less than the first width;

a second storage space of the audio rack having a second width smaller than the first width and configured to receive a second electrical equipment having a width slightly less than the second width; and

a third storage space located adjacent to the second storage space in the width direction₁

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wherein one of the first and second storage spaces is disposed on the top of the other.

22. (Amended) An audio rack according to claim [11] 12, wherein:

the first storage space has a first height configured to receive the first electrical equipment having a height slightly less than the first height; and

a second storage space has a second height larger than the first height and configured to receive a second electrical equipment having a height slightly less than the second height[.].

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